



The Old Ironsides Report

14 July 2003

Meetings solve community's problems 'one bite at a time'

Story and photo by Spc. Ryan Smith, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Community representatives and 1st Armored Division soldiers met together for dinner and discussed important community issues in Baghdad recently.

Members of a neighborhood advisory council from the Salhiya neighborhood in Baghdad met with soldiers from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment to discuss a variety of issues, including security and repairs to municipal services such as electricity, said Capt. Scott C. Nauman, A Company commander.

The meeting was the second between the neighborhood advisory council and the company. During the first, Nauman said, the community representatives identified problems within the Salhiya neighborhood, the area for which the unit is responsible.

Lack of electricity, water, sewage and trash removal are the top problems, he said.

The intent of the meetings, however, is not only to identify the problems, but also to look for solutions. Nauman's goal is for the community leaders to be able to take responsibility for solving their own problems within the neighborhood.

It's not always an easy process. One of the suggestions made by a member of the council was to have the Office of Coalition Provisional Authority purchase a separate generator for everyone in Baghdad, a city of five million people.

The meetings produce results, Nauman said. Security in the neighborhood has gotten considerably better and illegal gasoline sales and traffic problems in the neighborhood have both been reduced in Salhiya.



Iraqi community representatives meet with soldiers from A Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, to discuss community issues in Baghdad.

The A Company soldiers are continually working with Salhiya's residents to improve the community.

Though there are many problems to be solved, Nauman views each improvement as a success.

"You eat an elephant one bite at a time," he said.

Paratrooper remembered for his friendship, impressions on others

SPC. Jason B. Baker, 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Abn.)

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment mourned the loss of a fellow paratrooper with a memorial ceremony at the Battalion's headquarters July 11.

The paratroopers remembered the friendship and personality of Spc. Chad L. Keith, 21, Batesville, Ind. Keith not only leaves behind his "airborne brothers," but also his brother, two sisters and parents back in Indiana.

The ceremony began with an invocation by Chap. (Capt.) Edward Jackson, followed by Keith's Company Commander, Cpt. Orlando Cosme, Company D, 2ns Bn. 325th AIR. Cosme's words were a testimony to Keith's ability to make a quick impression on those who had the chance to meet him.

"From the first day I met him I always called him 'Ranger Keith,'" Cosme said.

"He never gave up," Cosme said. "And he always insured he remained above the standards in every aspect. From NTC (National Training Center) to Baghdad he strived for success.

Sgt. James Christen, Co. D, 2nd Bn. 325th AIR, Keith's best friend, reminded those in attendance that he will always be

a friend to those who knew him.

"He was a man that leaves a lasting impression," Christen said. "Chad is the kind of guy, whenever you saw him you needed to say what's up to."

Christen reminded members of his platoon of their relationships with the fallen paratrooper.

For one soldier, it was the nights he and Keith spent at the club and for another, Keith was a guy who always offered some good advice.

"For me," Christen said, "he was the man who introduced me to my wife and he is the best friend I've ever had."

Keith's life was taken during a routine night patrol through the Al Doura District of Southern Baghdad. Keith was manning the MK-19 Automatic Grenade Launcher in the lead vehicle of a multi-vehicle convoy when an improvised explosive device was command-detonated about a meter off the road. Keith was thrown from the vehicle.

Keith's platoon and the soldiers of Task Force Falcon continue patrols and fixed site security throughout southern Baghdad to ensure a safe secure environment for the Iraqi people and coalition forces.

NEWS

Officials Say Bush Uranium Claim Accurate

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Bush administration says the president's statement in the State of the Union address about Iraq's seeking uranium was accurate and is supported by other British and U.S. information. Nevertheless, said Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser, the statement should not have been in the Jan. 20 speech, in which Bush laid out reasons for military action against Iraq.

Hurricane Watch Issued for South Texas

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (AP) - The National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane watch Sunday for the South Texas coast as Tropical Storm Claudette gained strength in the Gulf of Mexico. The storm was expected to make landfall at near hurricane strength as early as Tuesday, said Miles Lawrence, a forecaster with the center in Miami.

Belgium rewrites war-criminal law

(USA TODAY) The newly reelected government of Belgium agreed to rewrite a controversial 1993 law under which foreign leaders have been targeted for prosecution as war criminals. Among them: President Bush; Gen. Tommy Franks. The Bush administration warned that NATO could choose another site for its headquarters if the law remained on Belgium's books.

Chechen rebels ambush Russian soldiers

(USA TODAY) Rebels ambushed a Russian military vehicle in southern Chechnya, killing nine soldiers and wounding five.

Sporadic rebel attacks elsewhere Saturday left 11 servicemen dead while the Russian military claimed to have killed a leading Chechen warlord.

The soldiers were traveling in a heavy Kamaz truck when they hit a remote-controlled land mine in southern Chechnya on Saturday evening.

Chaplain's thought for the day:

"In every child who is born, under no matter what circumstances, and of no matter what parents, the potentiality of the human race is born again: and in him, once more, and of each of us, our terrific responsibility toward human life; toward the utmost idea of goodness, of the horror of terror, and of God." - James Agee

The children of Iraq are counting on us. What we do here and now for these children will shape their future and the world's.

"Let the children come to Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14).

SPORTS

Armstrong Takes Tour De France Lead

L'ALPE D'HUEZ, France (AP) - Lance Armstrong took the overall lead in the Tour de France on Sunday after completing the second mountain stage of the race.

Though Armstrong finished third behind Iban Mayo of Spain in the legendary L'Alpe d'Huez stage, his ride on the grueling Alpine climb was good enough to secure him the leader's yellow jersey, the first time this Tour that he has worn it.

Els rolls to Scottish title

LUSS, Scotland (AP) -- British Open champion Ernie Els may never have entered a major with so much confidence.

His final 69 at the Scottish Open gave him a five-stroke victory, four days before he begins his Open defense at Royal St. George's.

The South African stayed well clear of Darren Clarke and Phillip Price, who matched his 69 but couldn't get closer.

Gary Murphy of Ireland took fourth place after a 67. Els finished 17 under par on 267.

Cubs ride Sosa's bat to 7-3 win over Atlanta

By Rick Gano, AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Sammy Sosa wasn't chosen as an All-Star, so he's performing like one just before the break.

"I'm always playing like an All-Star," Sosa said Saturday after his homer started the Chicago Cubs on a six-run fourth inning that led to a 7-3 win over Atlanta, stopping the Braves' winning streak at eight games.

Since returning June 18 from a seven-game suspension for using a corked bat, Sosa has a .344 average, 12 homers and 23 RBI.

In other news...

Future law & disorder on CBS

(USA TODAY) *Century City*, a futuristic legal drama scheduled for midseason on CBS, foresees a world of 2053 in which progress has made life better, if still complicated.

The pilot deals with a man who is trying to save his son's life by creating a clone for transplant and, on a lighter note, with a half-century-old boy band suing a member for not taking treatments to preserve his youthful appearance. The firm's lawyers will be portrayed by Hector Elizondo (*Chicago Hope*), Viola Davis (*Traffic*), Eric Schaeffer (*If Lucy Fell*), Nestor Carbonell (*Suddenly Susan*), Ioan Gruffudd (*Horatio Hornblower*) and Kristin Lehman (*Judaina Amv*).

TODAY'S WEATHER

High: 111F

Low: 84F

